

U.S. congressman found dead

NEW AUGUSTA, Mississippi (AP) — U.S. Congressman Larkin Smith was found dead Monday in the wreckage of a small plane that crashed in a forest, authorities said. The plane carrying the freshman Republican congressman and his pilot disappeared from radar screens about Sunday night and was found early Monday. Two bodies were taken from the wreckage, said officials of the Harrison County sheriff's office. Rescuers searched the wreckage from the air, and searchers struggled through heavy woods to reach the site 30 kilometres south of Hattiesburg, said C.H. Esterling, spokesman for the Perry County sheriff's department. The plane carried the congressman and his pilot, Chuck Verling. Smith, 45, a freshman who succeeded Republican Trent Lott, now a U.S. senator, was returning home to Gulfport from Hattiesburg Sunday when the plane disappeared from the radar screen, said Charles Smith, Smith's press secretary. Smith, a graduate of William Carey College, was a former police chief in Gulfport and was sheriff of Harrison County before being elected to Congress in November.

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Artillery duels continue in Beirut; preparations seen for another major assault

Jordan calls for urgent Arab effort in Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Monday called on Arab leaders to exert urgent efforts towards ending the violence in Lebanon and warned that the embattled country had reached "the stage of perpetual danger with signs of foreign intervention to save an Arab country at a time when it is more appropriate for the Arabs to go to its help."

The Jordanian statement, issued by an official spokesman and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, came as artillery duels continued in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, and rival forces were reported massing forces in what was seen as preparations for another major clash.

The Jordanian statement said: "Israel is awaiting a suitable opportunity to achieve further gains at the expense of Arab rights and land. The continuation of the (Lebanese) tragedy, will make the whole region subject to the threat of balkanisation and disintegration, leading to foiling the Palestinian intifada, to diverting attention from Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people and to depriving the Arabs and Muslims from their rights to restore sovereignty over Jerusalem and the holy Islamic and Christian places."

The spokesman said the Jordanian leadership and people were extremely worried and concerned over the situation in Lebanon, and voiced the Kingdom's "amplified, denunciation and condemnation of the grave escalation of the situation."

The spokesman also reviewed Jordan's contribution to the efforts of a six-member Arab ministerial panel which sought to end the civil war in Lebanon. "Jordan continued to support every sincere Arab effort to arrive at a final and honourable settlement of the Lebanese problem by presenting clear and objective proposals to the Arab summit held in Casablanca," the spokesman said. "Based on this stand, Jordan supported the formation of the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with ending the crisis and ensuring Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

In Beirut, Syrian and allied militiamen shelled the besieged rightist enclave Monday while troops and armour were reported massing in the mountains overlooking Beirut for what rightist say will be a new attempt to break through their strongholds.

Police reported three people were killed and 12 wounded in the shelling, the fifth straight day of bombardment that has left much of Beirut a smoldering, deserted ruin.

Police reported that 50,000 fled the devastated capital already

abandoned by more than 85 per cent of its 1.5 million population in recent weeks.

Monday's casualties raised the overall toll since fighting erupted March 8 to 736 killed and 1,896 wounded.

At least 37 civilians were killed and 120 wounded between midnight Saturday and midnight Sunday.

As shells crashed around his shattered presidential palace, army commander Michel Aoun, vowed to fight on until Syrian troops were forced out of Lebanon.

"There will be no ceasefire unless it is linked to a timetable for a Syrian pullout from Lebanon," Aoun told Reuters from a bunker at the palace in east Beirut.

In a telephone interview punctuated by the sound of shellbursts, he said he had enough weapons to fight a long war but he did not expect it to last for long.

"We are coming to the point of the withdrawal of the last Syrian soldier from Lebanon," Aoun said. He did not elaborate.

Artillery duels have been raging since Aoun five months ago declared a "war of liberation" to expel Syria's estimated 33,000 troops, but they reached a new intensity Thursday.

On Sunday pro-Syrian forces launched the first major ground attack of the campaign, across the

Souk Al Gharb mountain ridge which overlooks Lebanon's rightist enclave.

Syria, allied to Lebanese Druze Muslim and leftist militias, denies its own troops took part in the battle. Independent security sources said 28 Syrians were killed.

"We are not fond of war and it's not our hobby," Aoun said. "We are fighting for freedom, sovereignty and peace."

Sources at Aoun's headquarters said that the Syrian National Socialist Party (SNSP), another Damascus ally, was mustering its forces with Syrian regulars in the reported buildup at Douar, east of Beirut.

The SNSP, composed mainly of leftist Greek Orthodox fighters long hostile to the Maronite Catholics who dominate the Christian camp, has stayed out of the fighting until now.

"The Syrians are bringing in T-62 tanks and dozens of mortars of various calibers to positions overlooking Douar," the spokesman said.

Douar is a major military position held by elements of Aoun's 10th commando brigade. It lies astride the main road through the central mountains from the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon.

Souk Al Gharb, 18 kilometres southwest of Douar, was heavily shelled again Monday and Aoun's aides said the rightists were bracing for another assault.

Art dealer may have been abducted

MOSCOW (R) — A French millionaire of Armenian origin who disappeared last month from his Moscow hotel may have been abducted, an official Soviet spokesman said Monday. Soviet law enforcement agencies and the Interior Ministry are searching Moscow, Leningrad, the Armenian capital Yerevan, and other tourist cities for art dealer Garriq Basmadjian, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh. "Various versions are under consideration, including abduction," Gremitskikh told a regular news conference in Moscow. He did not say whether anyone in particular was suspected of kidnapping the Jerusalem-born Armenian. Basmadjian came to Moscow in July to help Armenians who had suffered in the massive earthquake in the southern Soviet republic last December. Gremitskikh said, "He was seen for the last time on the 29th of July. He was leaving the Europa Hotel," Gremitskikh said. "Our experts express not just the hope but the confidence that the search operations will be crowned with success." The man's disappearance was announced last week on Soviet television and in the daily newspaper Trud, which said the KGB state security police had joined the police investigation.



Hassan II receives message

RABAT (Petra) — King Hassan II of Morocco Monday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message, delivered by King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, dealt with the current situation in the Arab scene and bilateral relations.



The late Mickey Leland with a refugee child

Rescue teams at work at Leland crash site

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Undaunted by bad weather, rescuers began the grim task Monday of recovering the bodies of U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland and 15 others who died when their airplane crashed into a mountain in southwestern Ethiopia.

The bodies of Leland and 11 of the other 15 people were found Sunday in the wreckage of the twin-engine plane, which disappeared a week ago during bad weather on a flight to a refugee camp near the Sudanese border.

The others were presumed dead in the crash, which one U.S. air force pilot described as "unrecoverable." The search for the other bodies began Monday in a steep ravine below a jagged cliff about 80 kilometres southwest of the capital.

"The nose of the plane just ran into rocks," said U.S. Congressman Gary Ackerman, who was in the Blackhawk helicopter that first spotted the wreckage of his colleague.

"The wings sheared off and the engine and fuselage were burned," Ackerman said after returning to Washington late Sunday.

Leland was chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Hunger and an advocate of U.S. aid to famine-ravaged regions of Africa.

Flags were lowered to half staff at the White House as President George Bush and other leaders expressed sorrow at the death of Leland, who was en route to inspect conditions for 300,000 Sudanese civil war refugees at a camp in Fagnid, about 160 kilometres southeast of the crash site.

Ethiopian civil aviation officials said they had already sent a team of experts to study the wreckage and investigate the crash.

They said the government Twin Otter aircraft may have been trying to reach a nearby airport by following the Baro River.

The river is bordered by towering cliffs on both sides and the plane flew directly into one.

The officials said they had no idea yet whether the accident was caused by pilot error or equipment problems.

Israeli tax collectors wounded by firebomb

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Two Israeli tax collectors were badly burned when Palestinians petrol bombed their car in central Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, the army said.

Two bombs landed in the front seat of the car, badly burning the faces and hands of two Israeli tax collectors. Two tax department workers in the back seat, one a woman, were slightly burned, hospital officials said.

Underground leaders of the 20-month-old uprising have called for attacks against Israelis and have ordered Palestinians to stop paying taxes to Israel.

Troops clamped a curfew on the nearby Kaddoura refugee camp and on the street where the attack took place, arresting some 40 Palestinian suspects, the army

said. An official in Israel's tax office, Moshe Gavish, said on Israel Radio: "Such things will not deter us. We will see what step we need to take to prevent such attacks."

Journalists were allowed in the area briefly but were then ordered to leave.

Soldiers were seen welding shut the doors of about 10 neighbouring shops, a common punishment used by the army for attacks that cause injury.

An army spokesman said the attack appeared "premeditated," but declined to give details.

There have been repeated confrontations between Israeli authorities and Palestinians over non-payment of taxes. Leaflets issued by the underground leaders of the Uprising have urged

Palestinians to withhold taxes as a tactic of the 20-month revolt.

In Ramallah and neighbouring Al Bireh, both about 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem, merchants staged a one-day general strike earlier this month to protest the government's seizure of their identity papers to force payment of taxes.

The towns, with a combined population of more than 25,000, are home to many wealthy merchants and businessmen and have some of the largest villas in the occupied lands.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, masked youths set ablaze a bus carrying Arab workers to jobs in Israel. Reporters said no one was reported injured since the youths ordered the driver and passengers off before setting it afire.

U.S. says PLO should bury past 'belligerence'

TUNIS (Agencies) — The United States, at formal talks which remain stalled on the idea of elections in the occupied territories, told the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday that Palestinians must abandon the "belligerence" of the past.

"We made clear our conviction that the Palestinians must respond to the challenge of building a new peace, not continuing an old conflict," Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, told reporters after the two-and-a-half-hour meeting.

Washington requested the meeting with PLO officials after a congress of Fateh, the main group within the PLO, recommended that the movement should "intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle."

The U.S. State Department said last week's statement by Fateh, which is led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was "unhelpful and raised questions about its desire for peace with Israel."

The head of the PLO team, Yasser Arafat, said the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), did not refer to the row over armed action in a statement he issued on the meeting and he declined to answer questions.

Pelletreau, head of a three-man U.S. team at the talks in the north Tunis suburb of Carthage, said most of the session, the fourth since a PLO-American dialogue began in December, was devoted to ways to get the Middle

East peace process moving. "We are suggesting that the next, but not the last, milestone on that road is an election in the occupied territories," he said in a prepared statement.

"Such an election... could launch a political negotiating process which would... lead to a comprehensive solution."

Pelletreau said elections must be acceptable to Israelis and Palestinians and did not specify Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal, which would allow the elected Palestinians to negotiate the future status of the territories.

Abed Rabbo rejected elections as the basis for a settlement, saying peace could only come through an Israeli withdrawal and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

"The Shamir plan is unsuitable for progress towards the peace process and does not amount to an opportunity to start the process. On the contrary this plan puts an end to opportunities to achieve peace in the Middle East," Abed Rabbo said.

The PLO's position is that it would endorse elections in the West Bank and Gaza strip only after Israeli withdrawal, under U.N. supervision and as part of a detailed timetable leading to an independent Palestinian state.

Abed Rabbo repeated that the PLO wanted peace through an international conference on the Middle East. The United States prefers direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

Kabul to launch peace offensive

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's foreign minister Monday said the Kabul government was stepping up international diplomatic efforts to force the United States and Pakistan to back negotiations for peace in Afghanistan.

Abdul Wakil outlined government plans for a diplomatic offensive that will start next month at the Non-Aligned Movement's summit conference in Belgrade.

In particular, Wakil said Afghanistan wanted the summit to pressure Pakistan to stop its support of the Mujahadeen rebels who are fighting to oust the Kabul government.

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of increasing its military and logistical support for the Mujahadeen since Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan six months ago.

Wakil said Afghanistan received a great deal of support from a Non-Aligned Movement foreign-ministers meeting in Harare last May and now wanted the summit to come up with a formal resolution condemning what he said was Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

"I think the Non-Aligned Movement and the host country, Yugoslavia... have an important role to play in the settlement of the problem of Afghanistan," Wakil said.

He said Afghanistan wanted to

see a final resolution at the summit calling for:

1) The observance of the U.N.-sponsored Geneva accord for efforts to force in Afghanistan by all signatories, including Pakistan.

2) Initiatives to seek a political settlement to the war.

3) The non-interference and non-aggression of other countries in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

4) The encouragement of talks and negotiations between Afghans for peace war.

"No country of the Non-Aligned Movement can stand against the proposals, all of which go against Pakistan," Wakil said in an interview.

He said any pressure on Pakistan, the United States' closest ally in the region, was pressure on Washington, the main armorer and backer of the Mujahadeen rebels.

Afghanistan's position will be put to the summit by President Najibullah, Wakil said.

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Friday-Sunday Aug 25-27 At villa opposite University Hospital, Amman Save the Children

The beginning of the end for 'black' dollars?

By Ghadeer Taber Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The foreign currency black market in Jordan appeared to be cracking Monday as the dinar gained further against the American dollar in heavy trading of the U.S. currency, which was quoted in the black market at rates lower than commercial banks.

According to analysts, the trend in the market was further declined of the dollar, thus undermining the once-mushrooming black market, where the currency fetched as much as 960 fils in late July but quoted at about 750 fils Monday — 50 to 60 fils less than the rate in commercial banks.

"There is panic selling of dollars," reported an official at one of the major banks in the capital. "Everyone seems anxious to get rid of dollars as fast as possible because of the fear that the dollar could continue its plunge."

An official at the foreign exchange desk of another major bank told the Jordan Times that by 12:30 noon Monday, the bank had bought \$250,000 in foreign currency. "The queue is all the way to the door,"

he said.

Most of the banks said they were mostly buying the American currency and some said they were not selling at all. The average buying price was in the range of 720 fils to 740 fils to the dollar, compared with 800 fils at Tuesday's close. However, the selling price remained between 780 fils to 800 fils, lower than Thursday's close of 820 fils, the ceiling set by the Central Bank when it injected \$25 million into the commercial bank last week, precipitating the first decline.

Ironically, the dollar was quoted Monday between 740 and 750 fils in the black market. Experts and bankers said many black market dealers were apprehensive that the currency could lose more against the dinar and many also feared that banks might ask them to explain the source of the currency if approached.

But the chief dealer at one of the major banks in Amman explained that there was no such regulation and his bank was buying dollars with no questions, except for an identification of the seller. "This bureaucratic process appears to have scared away many potential sellers," he commented.

Optimistic note Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh struck a highly optimistic note Monday and said the emerging stability in the dinar's exchange rates was very encouraging.

"There is a quiet indication that what happened in the near past was not justified by real market forces but because of speculation against the dinar," the minister was quoted as saying by Reuters. "This trend has stopped... there is a strong demand for the dinar and this will continue."

In an indirect reference to the black market, Jaraneh said he hoped the huge fluctuations in the dinar's exchange rates over the past two weeks "will give people a lesson in the future that the dinar will not be subject to such an experience again."

More bankers attributed the dramatic recovery of the dinar to the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) aggressive intervention in the market. The CBJ action was further boosted Monday when it sent a memo to commercial banks saying that it would sell dollars to them at a rate of 765 fils to be resold with a ceiling of 770 fils.

"The CBJ's policies of intervention in the market when necessary, coupled with aid from Gulf which gave the bank the necessary ammunition to intervene helped back the downward trend of the dinar," a banking source told the Jordan Times Monday.

Another analyst also gave credit to the CBJ but more on a philosophical note. "The most important feature of CBJ policy is the acceptance of free market principles," he said, referring to supply/demand as the basis for setting a realistic exchange rate for the dinar.

"Profit taking" The same analyst also cited the concept of "profit taking" as important in the overall analysis of why the trend was reversed. "In any market in the world the trend is never in one direction. It was only natural that the boards of the dollar realized this and decided to sell their dollars in order to take this profit."

Arab Bank Chairman Abdul Majid Shoman put it more simply. "People are scared. So they wanted to sell their dollars before the rate gets any lower and they lose their profits," he told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Monday.

None of the analysts and bankers interviewed by the Jordan Times were willing to quote a figure at which the dinar would stabilise against the dollar. "I don't have a figure to give you, but I think it will stabilise at lower than 740 fils to the dollar," said Jawdat Shasha, chairman of the Cairo American Bank.

A banker who insisted on anonymity said: "Any calculated guess I make will be arbitrary, but it is Central Bank policy to find the equilibrium level based on supply and demand."

But Shoman, Shasha and many others agreed that it was too early to remove the two-tier exchange rate system introduced by the CBJ early August.

Economist Fahed Faneh said it was a "healthy sign that the dollar is selling at a lower price in black than in the free market. It indicates a strong belief that the dinar was indeed undervalued against the dollar."

The dollar's dramatic decline from 960 fils in the black market to 740 fils Monday was precipitated by the introduction of the two-tier exchange system under which the American currency was set around 570 fils for imports of basic foodstuffs, some medicine and fees of Jordanians studying abroad and at a rate dictated by market forces for other purposes. The bank followed up the measure by injecting some \$25 million into the commercial banks at 815 fils — with a resale ceiling of 820 fils — to finance imports of items not covered under the government priority list.

Parallel to the drop in the rate for dollar in the commercial banks, the first-tier, official rate has been hiked gradually. On Monday, the Central Bank set the rate at 594/600 fils to the dollar.

According to Faneh, the CBJ appears to be aiming to unify the two rates and abolish the two-tier system somewhere midway between them. CBJ Governor Mohammad Saed Al Nabulsi has said that the system was only "temporary."

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Lack of data on hostages — legacy of CIA disasters, kidnappers' secretiveness

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In its heyday in Lebanon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) station in Beirut counted on its roster of assets an exotic array of Lebanese politicians and generals, dozens of agents from other countries and a handful of Palestinians.

The CIA was even able to use information gleaned from Palestinian contacts to foil planned kidnappings and killings of Americans, experts say.

But over the past 10 years, U.S. intelligence capabilities in Lebanon have eroded to such an extent that the CIA cannot obtain enough information to pinpoint the location of eight American hostages, according to specialists.

The dearth of intelligence about the hostages and their Iranian-allied captors is in part the legacy of a string of disasters that has plagued CIA operations in Lebanon, partly because of the clandestine nature and zealousness of the kidnappers, officials and experts say.

"We don't have adequate information on where they live, operate, train," said Robert McFarlane, the former national security adviser who helped plan the desperate White House scheme to free the hostages by selling weapons to Iran in 1985-86.

Under ideal conditions,

he said in an interview, the CIA would recruit native Lebanese or Americans of Lebanese origin to infiltrate the hostage-takers and report on their activities.

But Hizbollah, the name of the umbrella group under whose auspices the captors operate, defies penetration, said Senator David Boreo, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"These little cells, these units, are like organized-crime families," he said in an interview. "Strangers are easily spotted, even if they're Lebanese."

Marius Deeb, a Lebanese who taught political science at the American University of Beirut (AUB) for many years, thinks many Lebanese would be willing to divulge information to the United States about the kidnappers.

"But they're terrified. They're scared. They have to know for sure that if they give information, their life will be protected," Deeb said.

Such protection is impossible to guarantee in the chaos of a country splintered by 14 years of civil war and foreign occupation. And the history of CIA operations in Lebanon has not been reassuring.

For example, soon after the agency's Beirut station chief, William Buckley, was kidnapped outside his home in 1984, some of the CIA's Lebanese

agents were murdered or disappeared, according to David Martin and John Walcott, co-authors of "Best Laid Plans." The book traces the administration's attempts to fight extremism in the Middle East.

U.S. officials believe Buckley revealed many secrets under harsh torture, possibly in Iran, before being killed. His body has not been recovered, but Iranian intermediaries offered to produce the alleged confession during their weapons negotiations with the United States in 1986.

Buckley's kidnapping was the second time in a year that the CIA lost almost its entire Beirut operation.

On April 18, 1983, a car-bomb explosion demolished much of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, just as the CIA's chief Middle East analyst, Robert Ames, convened a staff meeting in his office. Ames was one of 16 Americans killed, along with station chief Kenneth Haas, according to the book by Martin and Walcott.

Martin and Walcott say the blast wiped out all but two of the agency's staff in Beirut. "Ames had for many years handled the CIA's extensive secret contacts with the PLO, which, both wittingly and unwittingly, had served as one of the agency's primary sources of intelligence about terrorist attacks against Americans," they wrote.

David Ignatius, a Washington Post editor who has written a fictionalized account of the secret U.S. channel to the PLO, cites Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the forced exile of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from Beirut as the turning point of the CIA's fortunes.

"As Lebanon became more anarchic and new groups emerged with which we had no contact, the old board was broken and we never really learned to play on the new one," Ignatius said.

Sources said the CIA was dealt another blow last December when Matthew K. Gammon, an agency official who had been on temporary duty in Beirut, was killed in the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, believed to have been caused by a bomb.

McFarlane and others familiar with intelligence operations suggest the CIA's ability to operate in Lebanon also was hampered by a decision 12 years ago by former agency chief Stansfield Turner to concentrate more on technical intelligence gathering, through satellites and electronic interceptions.

The late CIA director William Casey "faced great resistance within the agency and the intelligence community when he tried to expand human collection" of intelligence, McFarlane said.

That was one of the reasons



The devastated American embassy in Beirut after the April 18, 1983 bomb attack. The suicide assault killed two key officials of the Central Intelligence Agency.

he turned outside the agency — to former White House aide Oliver North — when he tried to find out what had happened to the American hostages in Lebanon and how they could be freed. North's dealings with Iran, including sales of U.S.-made missiles brought about

the release of two hostages in 1986.

Officials and lawmakers in Washington appear resigned to the virtual impossibility of running an effective intelligence operation in the anarchy of Lebanon, although they keep trying.

Compromise reported over Iran government

DUBAI (R) — Iran's leaders have reached a last-minute compromise on forming a new government without creating an open split between moderates and radicals, Iranian political sources in the region said Monday.

At a meeting late Sunday, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani retained power over the Foreign Ministry and the important economic ministries, said the sources, who are close to senior parliamentarians in Tehran.

But Ahmad Khomeini, son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and a rallying point for those leaders who put Islamic ideals above all else, insisted that outspoken Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi must stay, they said.

When parliament reconvenes Tuesday after the presidential elections July 28, Khomeini is guaranteed Rafsanjani's old job of house speaker in a deal agreed following his father's death in June, political analysts said.

Rafsanjani is expected to present the names of his new cabinet to parliament shortly after it reopens.

In the past two weeks, Mohtashemi has publicly contradicted Rafsanjani's view that negotiations can resolve major external problems, such as the detention of Western hostages by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon and better relations with Washington.

The sources said Islamic purists pushed to get the Foreign Ministry for outgoing Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, but Rafsanjani appeared to have blocked this by retaining the experienced Ali Akbar Velayati in the post.

Velayati had been tipped for vice-president but the sources said the compromise candidate for this was now Hassan Ebrahim Habibi, a French-trained, former justice minister.

Habibi is generally regarded as acceptable to all but has no large power base, they said.

They said Mousavi, whose post is being abolished, might move to the outside job of head of the foundation for the disabled, which looks after soldiers wounded



Hashemi Rafsanjani

ed in the Iran-Iraq war and which he supervised as prime minister.

The Islamic purists, generally dubbed radicals by outside political analysts, have strong ideological objections to many of the free-market solutions available to revive Iran's crippled economy.

Rafsanjani, who has said he will focus on economic reconstruction, is expected to retain his men at the finance, industry and oil ministries and give like-minded men the commerce and reconstruction portfolios.

But Western political analysts said his ability to move quickly depended heavily on avoiding or suppressing objections from the purists.

They said Rafsanjani, who has strong parliamentary support, might still try to arrange a vote of no confidence in the appointment of Mohtashemi, who was only narrowly endorsed by parliament as a minister last year.

New spiritual leader Ali Khamenei has also posed a possible problem by suggesting that he, as Iran's Islamic guide, should have an ambassador at large.

Khamenei has said the living standards of the people must be improved but he has adopted some of Khomeini's more rigid views on the way to achieve this, they noted.

U.S. commitment to Afghan Mujahedeen may be waning

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — There are signs that American support for the anti-communist Mujahedeen rebels in Afghanistan may be weakening.

Officially, U.S. policy has not changed. Privately, however, administration officials say it will be difficult to continue supplying the rebels with weapons while they use them to fight each other rather than the Soviet-backed

government in Kabul.

"Both (U.S. political) parties have supported the resistance, but there is a danger that would erode over time if there is no progress militarily and politically," said one senior official, who asked not to be named.

Congressmen are now openly suggesting that Washington should cut off military aid and pressure the rebels to accept a political settlement.

"Supplying military aid to the Afghan rebels is no longer in our

interest now that the Soviets have withdrawn," Anthony Beilenson, chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, wrote recently.

"Now that we have achieved our goal (the withdrawal of Soviet troops), we ought to get out of Afghanistan before our foreign policy success turns into a disaster," he said.

U.S. officials now admit that they were overly optimistic in predicting the rapid collapse of the Kabul regime once the Soviet

troops completed their pullout in February.

Their concern increased with the rebels' failure to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad this spring, prompting Washington to increase military aid to the Mujahedeen.

Concern gave way to dismay when reports began filtering back of feuds and fighting among rival guerrilla groups that threaten to destroy their fragile coalition.

One group, the Jamiat-i-Islami, claimed that 30 of its fighters

were killed in July by Hezb-i-Islami, one of its coalition partners, Hezb-i-Islami denies this.

The State Department warned Mujahedeen leaders that "over time, things like this erode support for the resistance in the West... people do not want to help if this is the way help is going to be used."

But at least one rebel military commander told the Americans that factionalism had long been an Afghan trait. The July massacre was "a fact of life of Afghan

society. You're going to have local incidents like this."

Despite the State Department's reproach, the Mujahedeen can still count on some firm allies in Washington.

The senior official believes the Mujahedeen have made important gains over the past year that have gone unnoticed.

"Sometimes the Muj (Mujahedeen) take a bit but most of the time they pick up these little places," he said, referring to villages and minor roads.

Prince Sultan 'brings back the stars' to Saudi Arabia

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — For Saudi Arabia, the next important frontier is space, according to the youngest astronaut ever to fly on a U.S. space mission, astronaut Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz al Saud.

Prince Sultan, since his 17,000 mile flight as a crewmember on the U.S. space shuttle "Discovery" in 1985, has become the link between ancient Arab astronomers who mapped the stars and dreamed of touching them and a new generation who will.

"I definitely will return to space one day," the now thirty-two year old Prince Sultan said in a USA interview. But he quickly added "there are many others who also keep the stars and will be going up before I do, I'm sure." He said because of the expense of space exploration "the future of space travel lies in international cooperation, rather than one country efforts."

In the United States to help launch the exhibition "Saudi Arabia Yesterday and Today" on its one year tour of U.S. cities, the pilot prince says his Discovery flight in June of 1985 has spurred scientific and technological development and a generation aspiring to the stars throughout Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf region. "It opened a very huge door to the future in Saudi Arabia — a huge door into space, space travel and space technology," the astronaut said at a film

presentation about his space mission held at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington. Perhaps the greatest impact of Discovery can be seen in the field of education, the Arab astronaut noted. He said in 1948 there were about 20,000 students throughout Saudi Arabia at every level of education from kindergarten to university. "Today we have something like a million and a half people going to school."

"For our people to just be exposed to such a programme was a tremendous experience," the prince said, adding that the 20th century section of the "Saudi Arabia Yesterday and Today" exhibition demonstrates that Saudi Arabia today is "utilising to the fullest extent" the spinoff from space research in every field of technology today, including medicine, hospitals, communications, and research.

In the 20th century section of the exhibition viewers discover for themselves what Prince Sultan does not say: that in Riyadh the king, Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, has called for the establishment of a great astronomical complex and scientific settlement in the name of Prince Sultan.

Another impact of his flight on the Arab World, the prince told his avid Smithsonian audience, is that "something like a thousand million people were exposed to this Saudi Arabian-American experience." Prince Sultan said in the Gulf and the Islamic world "hundreds of millions of people

were glued to their television sets day and night. We had really extensive coverage."

Discovery 51-G, launched 17 June, 1985, and the 18th flight of the U.S. space shuttle programme was international in both crew and payload. It carried the first French and the first Arab payload specialists and a cargo including American, Mexican and Arab domestic communications satellites. The Arab astronaut was one of a crew of seven on the mission, commanded by veteran pilot Daniel Brandenstein, now head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) astronaut training office in Houston.

He was joined by pilot John Creighton, and mission specialists Shannon Lucid, Steven Nagel and John Fabian, and French payload specialist Patrick Baudry, who carried out biomedical experiments similar to those flown by a French cosmonaut aboard a Soviet-manned mission.

"I heard people say it was one of the most successful missions NASA has ever had," Prince Sultan noted, "we were very fortunate." On the second day, 26 hours into the mission, the 2,800 pound ArabSat-A satellite was ejected flawlessly from the cargo bay of the orbiter. Eighty seconds after deployment and about 200 feet from Discovery, its built-in rocket was jettisoned by a signal from the master control station in Riyadh through the COMSAT

Launch Control Centre in Washington, D.C. The rectangular spacecraft, its gold and solar panels glistening against a cerulean sky, continues to provide telecommunications links for the Arab World, the prince said.

During the seven-day mission, the Saudi pilot conducted 70 mm. photographic studies for Saudi research institute scientists at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran. In another experiment, the astronaut placed various concentrations of Saudi, Kuwaiti and Algerian oils mixed with water in a 15-chamber plexiglass container. The oil-water combinations, which do not mix in Earth's atmosphere, are being studied by research institute investigators and the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama in an effort to shed light on the process of enhanced oil recovery and behaviour of oil spills and pollution. Prince Sultan also participated in the French (Posnal) Experiment (FPE) on the response to weightlessness of the cardiovascular and sensorimotor systems, which has helped scientists better understand the human body's adaptation in space.

Because events moved so rapidly during the flight there was no time to consciously form impressions of space, he said, "but when I came back, my impressions were very, very strong. To see the boundaries of earth, to see depth of space — the black is not just a black colour we see here. It

doesn't feel like a black background — it feels infinity, like something endless."

As he photographed Saudi Arabia during Discovery's 49 daylight passes over its southwestern region, Prince Sultan said his own concepts of global geography were profoundly changed. The "lines and boundaries" of countries had been so stressed by teachers in studies throughout his childhood "I had (almost) begun to actually believe these things (lines) existed physically." When he saw the view of earth from space, he said "as I rode between one country and another I wondered 'where are those lines I have been hearing of?'"

All of the Discovery crew seemed to focus on viewing their own country during the first days of the flight he noted. "Patrick (Baudry) kept showing us Africa because he was born in Africa," he said, and during the time of the mission, fires were burning throughout Africa. "We could see thousands of fires — it just breaks your heart."

"I kept showing people Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. We used to see the sun rise and set about 16 times a day — about every 45 minutes." About the fourth day into the mission, the astronaut said a "noticeable change" began taking place as the crew in their studies began to view the world as a whole. "By the end of the mission, we all had agreement, we saw just one planet. When

you go into space once, you really leave a little bit of you up there. I have a long distance contact there now," Prince Sultan told his Smithsonian audience. "I just close my eyes every time I want to go back. There's a little bit of me up there just looking at things that never disappear..."

As a pilot, Prince Sultan says he continues to read maps but after that experience "I could never rebuild that same definition of borders." Three months after the flight he came home to Saudi Arabia, but was invited to return to the United States at the invitation of President Reagan for a visit to the White House. "And I did something really stupid," he told the youngsters. "I forgot my passport back home — but then, I'd been around the world 111 times in a week. We kept going into and out of countries so fast — why should I need a passport?"

Responding to questions from students and their parents the prince told the science enthusiasts "I was more scared of the alligators when I used to run at 4 o'clock in the morning in Florida" during training than of blasting off into space. "Someone told me they could run faster than humans." He added that he had had "some of the most wonderful times of my life" in the NASA complex in which astronauts trained.

One aspect of the mission he said he had not been prepared for was his return from space 7 days later. "Back home, we're not

Prince Sultan Ibn Salman

used to people being idealised — to people being the centre of attention because of something humanistic that was done."

Asked what he said in his space-to-earth conversation with King Fahd, Prince Sultan said in Saudi Arabia it is customary to conclude telephone conversations with a query "would you like anything from here?"

"The king in parting words as I

left Riyadh, had said to me, 'bring us back the stars,' the prince said.

"As I ended our conversation from space I asked him 'would you like anything from here?'"

"When I returned to Saudi Arabia the king asked me, 'what could you have brought back from space?'"

And I told him — 'the stars' — USA.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koranic Programme review
15:40	Children programmes
17:45	Sea Hunt
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
19:10	Agricultural programme
19:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	A variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Douce France
19:30	News in French
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Paul Daniel's Magic Show
21:10	My Wicked, Wicked Way
21:30	News in English
22:00	With Me Luck II
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30	Fajr
05:54	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40	Asr
16:19	Maghrib
18:25	Zah

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidh Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623411	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713351	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813617, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will continue and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:15	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	Cairo (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:35	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45	Moscow, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:15	Belgrade (RJ)
13:45	Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)
14:00	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30	Thiruvananthapuram (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:30	Kuwait (KU)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Moscow (SU)
12:30	Riyadh (SV)
12:30	Rome (AZ)
13:00	Dubai (EK)
13:00	Zurich, Larnaca (BA)
14:00	London (BA)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower prices in 6th Sh. 1g.	
Apple (golden)	650 / 550
Apple (Kishan)	350 / 300
Apple (Kishan)	280 / 240
Apple (red)	750 / 600
Banana	400 / 350
Banana (Makassar)	350 / 300
Beans	480 / 400
Cabbage	270 / 220
Corn	210 / 180
Cucumbers (large)	300 / 250
Cucumbers (small)	300 / 250
Eggplants	150 / 100
Garages	450 / 400
Garages (red)	250 / 200
Garages	380 / 320
Lemon (yellow)	200 / 150
Lemon (green)	250 / 200
Marrows (large)	200 / 150
Marrows (small)	180 / 150
Onions	480 / 400
Oranges	500 / 450
Onions (dry)	200 / 150
Peas	180 / 150
Peas (green)	650 / 550
Peas (dry)	250 / 180
Potatoes	180 / 150
Potatoes	350 / 300
Sweet Melons	150 / 100
Tomatoes	140 / 100
Water Melon	170 / 80

كندا والشرق الأوسط

Pakistanis mark 42 years of independence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistan's 42nd independence anniversary was celebrated at the grounds of the Pakistani embassy in Amman Monday with the presence of Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan, Saghir Hussein Syed, and members of the Pakistani community in the Kingdom.

The Pakistani flag was hoisted to the national tunes at the outset of the celebration which included several speeches delivered by prominent members of the Pakistani community in Jordan.

The speakers outlined the long struggle of the Pakistani people for freedom and independence and also the great achievements accomplished in Pakistan since Independence Day in 1947.

The Pakistani ambassador also delivered an address on the occasion, outlining the new Pakistani government's programmes towards achieving the aspirations of the Pakistani people.

The ambassador voiced his country's total support for the



Saghir Hussein Syed

Palestinian people's struggle in the Israeli occupied Arab lands and their endeavours to establish an independent Palestinian state.

He also commended the strong ties between Pakistan and Jordan and paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his role in bolstering bilateral relations.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday arrives at the Vocational Training Corporation in Amman (Petra photo)

Queen Noor lauds VTC efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) at the Ministry of Labour, where she was received by the minister of labour and president of the VTC administrative council, Dr. Jamal Bdour, the director general of the Urban Development Department, Dr. Hisham Al Zaghra, and the director general of the VTC, Dr. Burban Shraydeh.

In the course of the meeting at the VTC, Bdour thanked Queen Noor for her continued and active involvement in development issues.

The Minister identified the main problems facing the Corporation today and outlined their solution. He pointed out the insufficient level of coordination between the various institutions involved in vocational training, in both the public and the private sectors, and emphasised the need for a closer cooperation between them to achieve more efficiency and avoid a fragmentation of efforts.

"Another difficulty is the feeble participation of the private sector, particularly the professional unions, in matters related to training," Dr. Bdour said. He stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive national system and pointed out the fundamental role which the VTC could play within such a system, in reducing unemployment, providing a work-force trained to meet the needs of national development plans and in dealing with negative social attitudes towards certain types of professions.

Zaghra described the close cooperation between the VTC and the Urban Development Department, while Shraydeh outlined the aims, accomplishments and aspirations of the VTC. Also attending the meeting were six VTC department directors.

Established in 1976 to meet an increased demand for skilled manpower and need to organise vocational work in Jordan, the VTC has opened, since its inception, several training centres for men and women in various parts of the Kingdom, an Instructor and Supervisory Training Institute and an Occupational Safety and Health Institute.

The numerous vocational training programmes which the Corporation initiated include long-

term apprenticeship programmes, medium and short-term training courses in fields such as maintenance and repair of electrical and mechanical equipment, carpentry, masonry, metal welding, farming, hotel services, sewing, knitting, typing, ceramics, hair grooming, and the making of artificial flowers and soft toys.

Queen Noor lauded the VTC's efforts and expressed her support for training programmes which "allow trainees, once they have acquired the necessary skills, to increase their income-earning power, and provide women in particular with wider opportunities to contribute to Jordan's development efforts."

Accompanied by Dr. Bdour, Queen Noor then proceeded to Al Manarah Women's Training Centre/Urban Development Project, run by the VTC.

Her Majesty was greeted by the Centre's Director, Mrs. Malak Al Khatib, and briefed about the centre's activities which include short-term courses in sewing, typing, knitting, the making of artificial flowers as well as soft toys and ceramics.

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Keilani inspects Jordan Valley dams

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani Monday made inspection tours of the Kafra and Hisban dams in the Jordan Valley region and discussed with engineers and experts the prospect of laying an iron-pipeline to drain away salty water from the Hisban region.

Later Monday the minister discussed the prospect of laying a pipeline to pump water to an artificial lake in Kafra to use water for irrigating additional areas of land in the region.

The visit came in the course of the minister's inspection tour of agricultural areas in the Jordan Valley and one day after a report on contaminated water found in the River Jordan.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that water drawn from the river was found to be contaminated and indications point to pollution coming from Palestinian territories occupied by Israel.

The paper quoted Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran accusing

Israel of polluting the river water by dumping chemical waste in it and in the river tributaries.

He said that water from the River Jordan cannot be used for irrigation because of the high rate of pollution, and that several fisheries in the Jordan Valley region close to the river have now been closed to prevent any dangerous effects.

Badran said that Jordan is observing the situation carefully, and has lodged protest with concerned United Nations organisations.

According to the paper, the Jordan Valley Authority has collected several samples of the river water for analysis.

Also Monday, the Minister of Water and Irrigation visited the laboratories and Water Quality Control Department to discuss measures for maintaining control over surface and underground water in Jordan.

The minister inspected the different sections and was briefed on the regular inspection and analysing processes in different areas.

The department director, Raja Jadoun, said that the laboratories test different samples of potable water and water taken from springs, and also examines pollutants present in the wastewater which might leak into drinking water networks.

Over the past seven months, the department conducted 57 tests to determine the type of water used to domestic and industrial purposes, Jadoun noted.

At present, he said, the laboratories are conducting constant testing on water samples taken from the four main water basins which supply Jordanian people with drinking water.

Majali returns from Baghdad talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali returned to Amman from Baghdad Monday after taking part in a four-day meeting by the Ministers of Information from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries.

The meeting adopted a joint ACC informational strategy which envisages the employment of all available facilities and informational and cultural tools for the purpose of achieving the

ACC goals and objectives. Majali said in a statement upon his return from the meeting.

The strategy calls for mobilising awareness among the public in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen towards the fulfilment of ACC objectives and envisages pooling ACC information efforts with those of the rest of the Arab World in defending pan-Arab causes and countering hostile propaganda campaigns launched

against the Arab nation, minister pointed out.

Referring to steps taken with the ACC in information, Majali said the four countries have already embarked on cooperation in the exchange of medical programmes, cultural and technical activities.

The four ministers were received in Baghdad by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and toured archaeological and tourist sites in Iraq.

Ministry of Health issues 64 new licences for drugstores

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health Monday announced that it has issued licences for 64 new drugstores in the Kingdom to encourage the private sector to ensure essential medicines for the public.

The announcement was made one day after a warning by President of the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) Tayseer Al Himsi that drugstores are running out of medicine and that no arrangements have been made for the importation of essential drugs.

Himsi told a press conference here that many drugstores are selling what remained in their

stocks with the purpose of liquidating their business, and laying off their staff.

He urged speedy measure to be taken on the part of the government to deal with the problem and to organise the pharmaceutical industry's operations.

Himsi referred to a recent Health Ministry statement which authorised the drugstores to import only five per cent of the country's needs of drugs and which failed to come up with arrangements for the rest of the medicines.

"The drugstores find themselves unable to deal with the problem and unable to import

medicine in view of the decline in the value of the dinar against foreign currencies," Himsi noted.

Himsi also said that a lot of imported drugs have been smuggled to other countries in view of the fact that they were being sold at a lower price in Jordan.

Himsi called on the Health Ministry to revise the work of a government-appointed committee to monitor the drug situation in the country and to control the importation and sale of the various types of medicines.

He also urged the government to make available sufficient funds for the drugstores to import drugs that can not be manufactured in Jordan.

Jordan gets 5 water tanker trucks from Japan for gardening projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan Monday presented five water tanker trucks to Jordan to contribute to efforts by the Greater Amman Municipality in its landscape gardening projects and parks in Amman.

The trucks, estimated to be worth \$326,000, were presented by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe to Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh at a ceremony in Amman.

Rawabdeh thanked the Japanese government for the gift and said that the trucks will contribute to the on-going efforts to

green Jordan.

The ambassador said that the gift was an expression of support by his government for the Amman municipality in its endeavours to plant trees and spread greenery everywhere.

According to a Japanese embassy press release, a Japanese landscape expert, Mr. Ryo Takahashi, has been seconded to Jordan to assist the Greater Amman Municipality in its work since

1985.

The presentation ceremony, held at the Ain Ghazal Agricultural Nursery, was attended by senior municipality and Japanese embassy officials.

Last week, Japan donated to Jordan planetarium equipment, and an astronomical telescope worth almost \$500,000 to promote cultural activities by the Haya Arts Centre in Amman.

2 training courses in library sciences end

AMMAN (Petra) — Two training courses in library science and the use of mini-computers in libraries ended at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman Monday.

The two month courses in which 45 participants from countries in the Gulf Arab states took part, were organised by the public library of the Greater Amman Municipality, the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation and the Jordan Library Association.

Addressing the closing session,

Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said that the coming year will witness a flurry of cultural activity, and book and cultural exhibitions and seminars in a move to promote the cultural movement in the country.

Rawabdeh noted that the municipality has set up 15 public libraries for young people and adults in various parts of the capital, and he paid tribute to the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation for its contribution to promoting cultural activity.

Committee puts final touches for anti-smoking conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee entrusted with preparing for holding a pan-Arab anti-smoking conference in Amman next month says it is putting the finishing touches to these preparations.

The conference, to be held between Sept. 2 and 4, hopes to pool Arab countries' efforts to fight the smoking habit through spreading awareness at the widest possible scale and through consistent campaigns in the media.

A general review of the topics to be discussed at the coming conference was reviewed by the preparatory committee which met Sunday evening at the head office of the Jordanian National Anti-Smoking Society, which is organising the conference in cooperation with the Health Ministry, the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

A committee spokesman said that 11 Arab states have already declared their readiness to take

part in the conference which also aims to establish a pan-Arab anti-smoking federation.

The conference, which will be held under the slogan "Towards an Anti-Smoking Arab Society," aims to unify and coordinate efforts in the Arab World to combat smoking and to provide protection from the dangers of smoking to the young generations and the non-smoking population, the spokesman added.

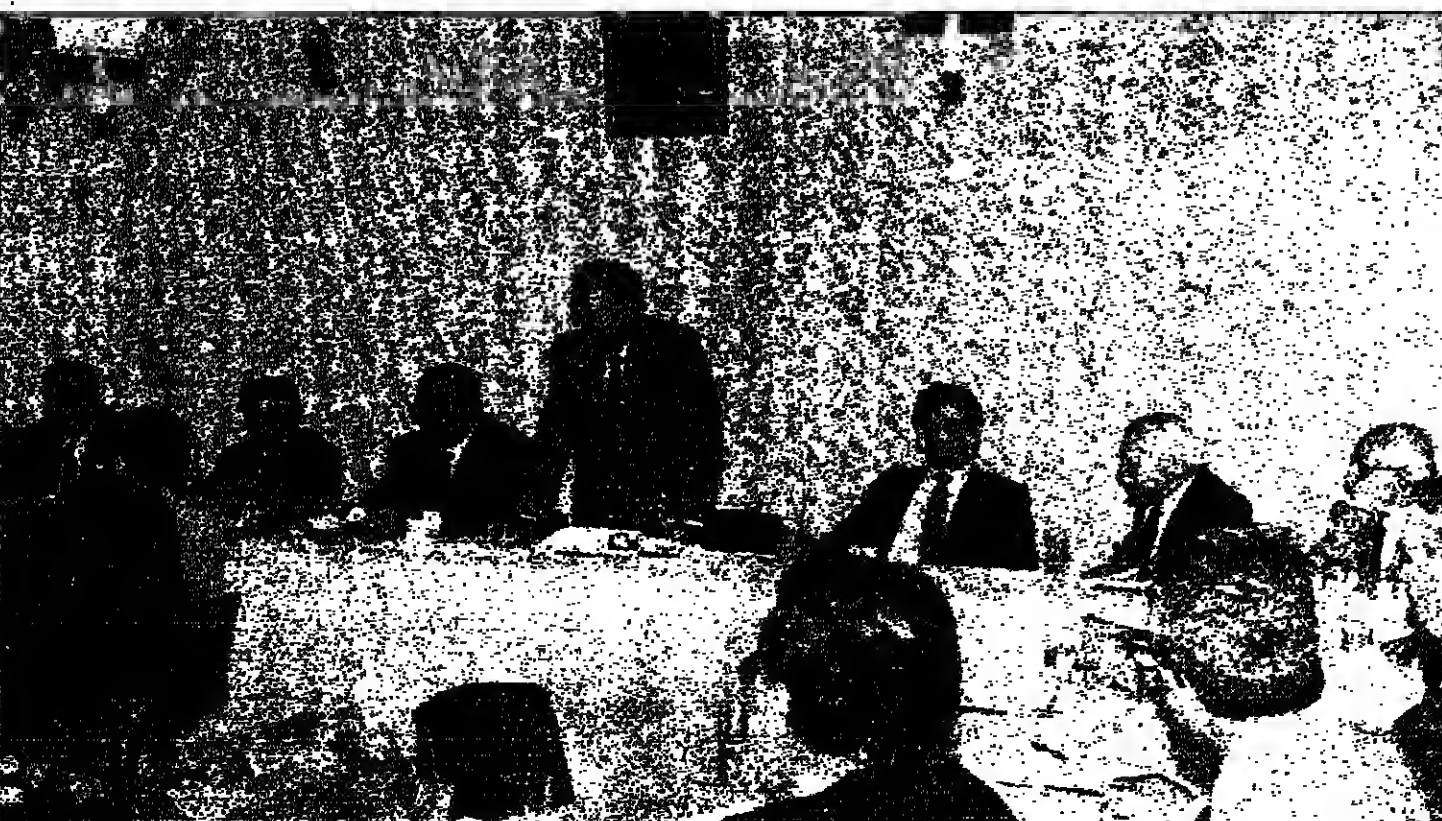
Several working papers dealing with laws and regulations that would help to stem the smoking habit and the terms of reference

of the federation's higher council, as well as a pan-Arab strategy to help eliminate the smoking habit from the Arab World, will be discussed by delegates at the three-day meeting, the spokesman said.

Addressing a press conference earlier this month to announce the conference, the committee Chairman Mohammad Shreim said that special focus will be made at the coming meeting on the adverse effects of smoking on economic and social development and the well being of individuals in the Arab community at large.

2 SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN NORTH GHOR: The Department of Education in North Ghor district has decided to build two elementary schools for girls in the townships of Krema and Abn Sido in order to absorb the increasing number of students in the two townships. (Petra)

NEW SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN KOURA: A new school for girls in the Koura district has been built. The school, which cost JD 350,000, consists of thirty-six classrooms, a laboratory, a playground, and other facilities. (Petra)



University of Jordan honours former president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former President of the University of Jordan Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali was honoured at a ceremony organised by University President Mahmood Al Samra. Samra succeeded Majali last month following a Royal Decree appointing the latter as

advisor to His Majesty King Hussein. Samra delivered a speech paying tribute to Majali's efforts towards the development of the University of Jordan and its programmes. University professors and deans were among those attending the ceremony.

No new AIDS cases reported since July 1

AMMAN (J.T.) — No new cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been reported to the Health Ministry since the beginning of July 1989, and the total number of people affected by the killing disease since it was first reported in Jordan is 31 including six deaths.

This was announced by Dr. Hani Shamout, director of the Health Ministry's Communicable Diseases Department, who said that two of the deaths occurred outside Jordan over the past two years.

Most of the victims, he said, have received blood transfusion abroad prior to 1983, the date when Jordan stopped importing blood.

In April 1989, the number of AIDS cases in Jordan stood at 25 and Shamout was quoted as saying that the Health Ministry expected the total number of AIDS cases in the Kingdom to reach 35 by the end of 1989.

He said that according to medical reports two of the present AIDS carriers were likely to die during this year.

He noted that the problem was now under control since the ministry has imposed a ban on the importation of blood, and through the help of a national committee which maintains a public awareness campaign, providing information on means of avoiding protection from the disease.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian Artist Maha Abu Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Arab poet Mamdouh Al Edwan at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILMS

★ A German film entitled "Das Brot des Backers" (The Baker's Bread), English subtitled, at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

★ Part III of the American Centre's series "The Power Game" under the title "The Unselected" — 7:00 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Sfeir expresses deep appreciation and gratitude for all those who extended their sympathy over the death of Dr. George Anton Sfeir

For attending the funeral or visiting the home of the bereaved family to offer condolences. This is a special word of gratitude for all of you and may God preserve your health and well-being.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab print daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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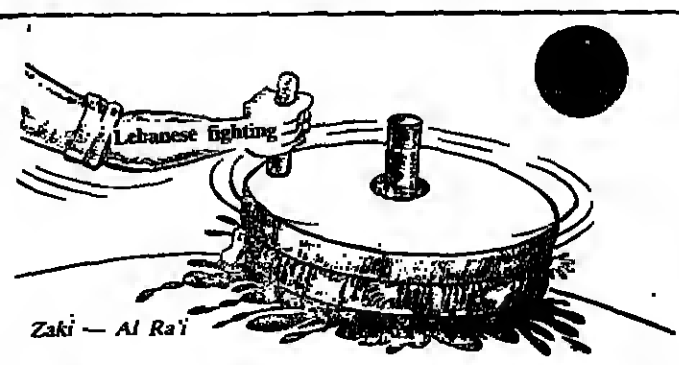
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Stop the carnage

THE VERY serious escalation of the armed conflict in Lebanon could bring the entire Lebanese conflict into a crescendo. There is no doubt that the intensification of the armed conflict there is a deliberate one aiming to bring the situation in Lebanon into a boil rather than an accidental flare-up that went out of control. Clearly the principal parties have fired of the stalemate in the Lebanese crisis and are now seeking a climax that would settle the dispute one way or another. Yet there is always fear that instead of the desired climax, the ongoing raising of stakes in the armed conflict would only produce an anti-climax. If this is indeed the case, then all the death and destruction invested in the Lebanese arena would have been gambled without achieving the aspired end.

The biggest catastrophe in this big and ominous wager lies in the fact that the very lives of the Lebanese people were the instrument of this farcical and shameful political game. This kind of manipulation and wanton disregard for the welfare and interest of the Lebanese has been going on for too long before the very eyes of the whole world. Perhaps it is still far fetched to expect the Lebanese people of all faiths and ideologies to unite and rise up against their warlords which have been making a mockery of their lives for such a long time. But the day is sure to come when the Lebanese people will decide to take their fate into their own hands and remove those leaders who have been proven responsible for the continuation of the carnage in their country.

But until the day of salvation arrives, it is incumbent on the Arab World to carry out its solemn responsibilities towards Lebanon and its people by convening another summit to put an immediate end to the internecine armed conflict there. Otherwise, the international community would be forced to take over that responsibility from the Arabs by default. Accordingly all those parties which dread the internationalisation of the Lebanese crisis, would be well advised to give the Arab efforts a better chance to succeed. The existing intensification of the fighting in Lebanon between the various competing factions and parties has got to stop. Either the Arab World is given a real opportunity to end at least the military conflict and impose a ceasefire, or it must yield to foreign powers to do the job.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian dailies Monday discussed the tragedy in Lebanon. Al Ra'i daily said that 15 years have passed since the outbreak of the conflict in Lebanon and thousands of people have lost their lives and untold devastation has befallen the Lebanese nation. The ordeal of the Lebanese people and the great pain the Arab World is going through because of the conflict should prompt all Arabs to take speedy moves and bring about a halt to the fighting, the paper said. The Arab Nation should be motivated by humanitarian feeling and should give priority to stopping the war and the destruction, it said. The paper expressed the view that an internationalisation of the Lebanese problem might lead to further tragedies and could be detrimental to the Arab region. What is required now is an immediate action on the part of the Arab League and the Arab states to stop bloodshed because this can pave the ground for a second constructive step. The Lebanese people, the paper added, should not be left alone in this ordeal and the Arabs have a moral and humanitarian obligation towards putting an end to the war machine.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the same topic and said that the Arab League mediation committee is now being urged to resume its aborted mission. No single party in Lebanon can achieve any gains from the continued fighting, and no Arab country would rest while Arab people in Lebanon are being slaughtered for no cause, the paper said. Now that Iran has become a party to the conflict in Lebanon by holding hostages and negotiating with the United States and Israel over their release; and since Israel continues to occupy Lebanese territory, there is urgent need for diplomatic efforts not only on the Arab League's part but also by any party that can influence the conflicting factions and bring about a truce, the paper noted. It said that the French government is now trying to help end the tragedy and there is an urgent need for all peace-loving countries including the Arab states to join forces to stop the bloodshed. The world should never tire of trying to bring about peace and reconciliation to the embattled nation, the paper concluded.

Al Dussour commented on the improvement in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies on the local market. The paper paid tribute to the Central Bank's efforts over the past few weeks which ended speculation in the black market and boosted the value of the local currency. The paper quoted monetary circles as saying that Sunday witnessed a flurry of activity in the local market and a rush to sell dollars, thus increasing the supply of the foreign currency in the market and bringing down its value. Thousands of people have now realised that the Jordan dinar is on its way back to recovery, and is being strengthened; and the Jordanian people are full of hope that the dinar will come out of this crisis very strong and stable, the paper said. It is hoped, said the paper, that the Central Bank will maintain its efforts in ending the blackmarket in Jordan and boosting the value of the national currency.

Namibians struggle for independence

By Gleanings Kinnock

THE people of Namibia have suffered the worst of all worlds — a century of particularly ruthless colonialism, decades of apartheid and a brutal war. Now they are on the brink of independence and nationhood. Military, diplomatic, economic and domestic pressures have finally forced South Africa, which has illegally occupied Namibia for 23 years, to sign the Tripartite Accord and put in motion the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 to set Namibia free.

True to form, however, South Africa and the whites who continue to rule Namibia in great splendour with economic and armed strength are determined that every weakness in the 435 compromise shall be exploited and that the commitment to "free and fair elections" shall be made as hollow as possible by the manipulation and intimidation that are their stock-in-trade.

From inside Namibia those tactics are resisted by the South West Africa People's Organisation — Swapo — which continues to work for a free Namibia, as it has for 30 years and more.

From outside Namibia groups of people come from churches, lawyers' organisations, civil rights groups, parliaments, political parties and governments in efforts to ensure that 435 is implemented in spirit as well as form.

That is why I was there with Tessa Blackstone in a British Council of Churches delegation. I felt the outrage which any democrat must feel at the strutting power of the South West African Police Force — Swapo. I felt deep pity and anger at the dire poverty of the mass of Namibian people in their own rich land. I felt frustration and despair when I

spoke to the Afrikaans Administrator-General of Namibia, Mr. Pienaar, of the pathetically inadequate health and education facilities for the Black majority and he told me that I must remember that this is a Third World country after all. He then repeated it, presumably because he thought I might have been misled by the surroundings in which our conversation took place, his lawned and servanted mansion.

And yet, alongside those feelings comes an optimism. It arises from the determination of the Namibian people to be part of the democratic process and the achievement of independence. They walk for hours to register for votes for the election of a Constituent Assembly in November, conscious of the fact that Swapo will have to secure a two-thirds majority if it is to exercise effective democratic authority. Old people are often carried to the registration centres. Women with children shiver for hours in the early morning sub-zero cold waiting for the centres to open and clutching the identification document needed for registration.

An old lady born in 1915, the year in which South Africa invaded German Sud West Afrika on behalf of the British Empire, told me of a lifetime of support for liberation from colonialism and the apartheid which "selected" her for an existence based on injustice and inequality. She told me she had spent her lifetime "in the dark". Now, she said, she would vote for Swapo so that her grandchildren could look forward to a better future in a new Namibia.

But in Namibia there is widespread evidence of intimidation of the population, especially in

the north where most of the people live. The main instrument of fear is Koevoet — Afrikaans for "crowbar" — the force established by South Africa for what were euphemistically called "counter-insurgency" purposes. Koevoet was formally disbanded in April under the terms of Resolution 435 but most of its members have been absorbed into the South West African police in the north of Namibia where they are still under the command of the Koevoet founder, Hans Dreyer.

They have, of course, neither the training nor the function of police. As Koevoet they were known to be well armed, well equipped thugs who terrorised northern Namibia enjoying legal immunity from prosecution. They enforced a total night-time curfew and got bounties — koggeld — for each killing. The Koevoet "policemen" still operate in much the same way, moving across country in their 16-ton armoured plated cassettes, descending on villages and homesteads, crushing crops, inflicting beatings, demanding information about people returning from exile, searching out Swapo supporters and maintaining a constant sense of menace.

That is their purpose everywhere at all times. When I visited the voter registration point at Eenhana Swapo men were hanging around wearing sidearms. Their pistols — as the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group official there complained — breached the Resolution 435 arrangement. But then, when the building was shaken by an explosion, one of the Swapo men snatched an R4 automatic rifle out of a canvas holdall and raced off to find out the cause of the blast. He returned a short time later to explain that "old mortar

bombs" were being donated at the nearby base and then put his R4 back into the bag, apologising for swearing in front of the white ladies and ignored the protests of the Ghanaians Untag man supervising the registration point.

A regular stream of cassettes roaring past a returnees reception centre in Ovambo land. As they swap along the road uniformed Swapo/Koevoet men made their political preferences known by giving the V sign salute of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance — main political opposition to Swapo. The salute is parodied by Swapo supporters as the offer of "een Boerwors, een Bier" in return for DTA votes.

But that mockery can't obscure the impression of brutal power exuded by the cassettes and their riders, neither can it offset the contrast between the armour and the arrogance of the Swapo forces and the confusion and poverty of the returnees.

Those people have fled over the years from oppression and from a war that has cost 10,000 lives in this country of less than two million people.

Now they are coming back from the neighbouring countries. But even as they exercise their legal right to reenter Namibia they cannot find peace or security.

At a village near the Angolan border an old lady in Ovambo dress acted out the story of how the cassettes visited her village only three weeks ago and the Swapo men terrorised the people in their search for returnees. We met people who were afraid to return to the homestead they had left for exile in the 1970s and women from Okongo who told me that they had gone as far as Epinga, 60 km away, but had to

return because police were going from house to house asking for them. So they lay listlessly on blankets in an old roofless building, their cardboard boxes containing their entire possessions. Still the returnees come by the bus-load, brought by the hope of going home and by the knowledge that they can actually vote for their future.

In a country with an estimated 60 per cent illiteracy rate and obviously no experience of democracy, the voting procedure proposes using thumb prints to identify voters who cannot write. Voting will be in secret in a booth. The ballot paper will be put in an envelope carrying the voters' registration number and taken with all other ballot envelopes and files to Windhoek where each signature or thumbprint will be checked against originals taken at registration. The fear of "fixing" is natural and widespread. American Civil Rights lawyers to whom I spoke in Namibia said that the FBI had told them that accurate fingerprint checking on such a scale was impossible. The opportunities for malpractice are obvious. Mobile voting units may only stop for a short time so many might miss the poll, the process will be overseen by the same Government officials who are regarded as having no record of impartiality under the South African colonial regime and there are frequent reports that the South West Africa Broadcasting Corporation and the 10 "ethnic" radio stations are pumping out State-sponsored propaganda.

Meanwhile, white with qualifications to vote — including four years residence in Namibia (a qualification satisfied by many South African soldiers) or grand parents from Namibia — are crossing into the border areas to register for the franchise.

Against that background Namibian democracy clearly has to struggle to be born. The draft electoral laws are said to be "fraught with opportunity for mischief" and the mischief makers certainly have influence and power.

The patience and resolution of the Namibians are being severely stretched. So is the credibility of the United Nations. There is a widespread feeling that too many concessions have been made to South Africa's personnel and preferences and there is a persistent view that the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General is not forceful in his dealings with the South Africans.

The situation is difficult. Delicacy as well as determination must obviously feature in the process of divesting the rulers of Namibia of the absolute power which they have wielded for so long. But still, the ability of the United Nations to ensure the peaceful change to independence through free and fair elections is on test. Any South African success in delaying or devaluing the change will grievously diminish the authority of the U.N. as well as prolonging the injustice, poverty and oppression of the people of Namibia — The Guardian.

OPEN FORUM

Why deprive children of their childhood?

AFTER years of studying the principles of early childhood education, and after years of observing these principles in practice, I am very convinced that kindergarten children should be provided with a nurturing atmosphere that is natural to the needs of childhood.

Children need to play and through play they learn many things necessary to prepare them for life. They learn to share, to get along with others and to imitate their parents and teachers.

Watch a child at play and you will see that for the child it is not play at all, because he or she takes it very seriously indeed. Observe a four-year old preparing a make-believe dinner. Listen to the conversation and watch the routine being followed. Or look at the five-year old building a road in the sand for cars or a city out of blocks. This is serious business to the child.

When adults try to deprive children of this play by forcing them to start formal learning too soon, they are preventing youngsters from a really important part of learning. In a way this emphasis upon academic learning is understandable since in the world of today there is so much pressure on everybody to do well, to make more money, to have the best grades and the most material possessions — but does this pressure have to be put on our children of four or five years old? Does life depend upon their learning to read and write in kindergarten before they have had a chance to mature and experience the joys of childhood? Do the educators, who have supposedly studied the needs of early childhood, have to give in to the increased demands of difficult world and impose pressure to learn formally on babies?

There are, fortunately, a few kindergartens left that provide a proper atmosphere for their children by allowing them to sing songs, play games, build cities, paint, bake cakes and learn about numbers and letters in a practical, relaxed way. But the kindergartens based on the principles of early childhood education are becoming fewer, and those which keep children from their "work" and force them to sit at tables copying letters with little fingers are increasing. These kindergartens are for adults — not for children.

It's really a shame that learned adults are losing sight of the important things in life and are turning our precious children into nail-biting, diffident, nervous little adults.

Please, parents and teachers, LET THEM BE CHILDREN. At least until they are six years old.

Dr. Sue Dabdak

Director
The Abdul Hamid Sharaf Schools

A way to soothe Israeli fears

By John V. Whitbeck

SINCE the recent events in China, the people of Hong Kong have been loudly demanding an "insurance policy" in the form of a right of residence in Britain. It is argued that such a right would not provoke any massive emigration of people from Hong Kong but rather would give them the confidence necessary to risk trying to make their society work in the changed circumstances after 1997.

Hong Kong is not alone in its anxiety and anguish. Visiting Israel during the week when Likud's central committee dealt a death blow to its own prime minister's "peace initiative", one is powerfully struck by the intensity of fear among even the most sophisticated Israelis — fear of the PLO (particularly as it adopts the positions Israelis have long demanded it adopt), fear of local Palestinians (whose willingness to die for their state appears inexhaustible) and even fear of the prospect of peace (which has never been so close to their grasp).

A visitor seeking to discuss peace prospects is constantly reminded that Israelis have nowhere else to go and thus cannot afford to take any risks or to make a single mistake. He is told that, until Israeli "confidence" is greatly increased, there is not only no way to reach a definitive settlement with the Palestinians

but no way even to discuss one and that the Israeli public is totally unready and unwilling even to think about how an independent Palestinian state might be established and structured so as to serve Israeli interests.

Traumatized by the Second World War and 40 years of hostility and perceived insecurity "as an island in an Arab Sea," Israelis have immense psychological problems in coming to grips with their changed circumstances after 20 months of the intifada and the opening of an American dialogue with the PLO and seem incapable of rationally analysing present realities, future possibilities and their own long-term self-interest.

Indeed, Israelis have placed themselves in a virtually impossible situation. To taste the bitter essence, Americans might try to imagine what life in their country would be like if the European settlers had not virtually exterminated the indigenous people and put the few survivors out of sight and out of mind and if 40 per cent of today's American population were Indians, without basic human rights, doing society's dirty work, smouldering with resentment and visible every day as the inescapable living evidence of the injustice inflicted on their ancestors.

Imagine further that Canada and Mexico were independent Indian states, still unreconciled to the European conquest and col-

onisation of the land between them and with populations much larger than that of the United States. This would not be a pleasant society in which to live. Both colonisers and colonised would be progressively degraded and dehumanised. Israelis readily admit that the atmosphere in the Holy Land today is ugly. It could hardly be otherwise.

To burst the psychological barriers blocking progress toward peace, the United States should promptly grant to all current Israeli citizens what Hong Kong's people are seeking from Britain — a right to live and work in America and, in due course, to become American citizens. As in the Hong Kong case, such a right would have both practical and humanitarian benefits. It would both encourage Israelis to take risks for peace in the Holy Land and at the same time provide those who have had enough with a refuge and a new start in life. Given the "common values" which Israelis and Americans are commonly held to hold, Israeli immigrants should be easily assimilable and an asset to American society. Indeed thousands of Israelis are already living and working in the U.S.

An insurance policy for Israelis

With their confidence strengthened by such an "insurance policy," a majority of Israelis

might finally be ready and willing to address the ultimate question on which peace depends — how a Palestinian state and its relationship with Israel could be structured so as to serve Israeli (as well as Palestinian) interests and, to enhance Israeli security, and the quality of Israeli lives, so that a majority of Israelis could recognise that it is in their own self-interest to accept Palestine's right to exist in peaceful coexistence with Israel.

No American politician submitting such legislation could be accused of being "anti-Semitic", "anti-Jewish" or "anti-Israel".

While according Israelis such a freedom of choice might not be deemed "pro-Zionist", since it would suggest that a Jewish state might not be the only place for Jewish people to find fulfillment and security, there should be little domestic political risk in supporting such legislation.

Risky or not, it may now be constructive to break an unspoken taboo, to admit that political Zionism may not have been a good idea and to focus on the wellbeing of those human beings who, either by embracing this ideology or finding themselves in its path, have been its victims.

John V. Whitbeck is an international lawyer working in Paris. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

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LUNCH & DINNER

By T.N. Azhok

Accurate forecasting

In India, agriculture accounts for about 13 per cent of industrial production with linkages between the two sectors increasing between 1980 and 1989 on the supply side. More raw materials like oilseeds, cotton, sugar and cane are being made available to industries.

There are also indications of

An important feature of agricultural growth during the eighties is its crop composition. The high growth rate of rice has compensated for a slowdown in wheat production. According to the

available buffer stock seeds, (d) using optimum and balanced doses of fertilisers, (e) rectifying micro nutrient deficiencies, (f) efficient water management to provide irrigation at critical stages of crop growth, (g) timely weed control, and (h) termiticide control in endemic areas.

The declining trend in pulses production is largely due to the fact that the crop was grown almost entirely in rainfed areas where both acreage and productivity had either declined or stagnated. The states where it is grown include Rajasthan, Mahar-

Another area crucial to agricultural growth is the rural credit sector. The national policy in this regard continues to be one of providing adequate and timely credit to farmers through institutional agencies, cooperatives



commercial and regional rural banks. The total agricultural credit disbursed in 1985-86 was Rs. 73.54 billion, which increased to Rs. 76.02 billion during 1986-87 and further to Rs. 82.14 billion during 1987-88. The target for 1988-89 has been fixed at Rs. 117.51 billion.

measures to farmers, rates of interests on agricultural loans have been reduced with effect from March 1988. With a view to extending the scope of relief, the Reserve Bank of India has now issued instructions for reducing the rate of interest charged on crop loans from 14 per cent to 12 per cent — BTL feature.

By J.I. Bregman

No known attempt to prevent pollution was made until the ending of the fourteenth century. When an anti-smoke ordinance forbidding the use of "sea al" in London was established royal proclamation. It is believed that at least one violator of a law was put to death by order Edward I. Nevertheless, by 1600, a British diarist named Evelyn acidly commented that "the City of London resembles the face Rather of Mount Vesuvius, the Court of Vulcan, the smother of the suburbs of Hell in an Assembly of Rational Creatures and the Imperial Seat of our Incomparable Monarch." He added that in approaching London, one "sooner smells than sees the City to which he returns." His pamphlet concluded with observations about the effects of this blight on health, pleasure, and vegetation as well as to the "Hands and Faces

Accomplishments threatened

- Rome is only a little better off. The third of four sewage treatment plants required to treat its sewage is about ready to start functioning. The historic beach at Ostia has been closed for years because of contamination by sewage. Roman monuments are reported to have about 10 years left before they fall total victim to pollution.
- The United Kingdom has defined 0.35 per cent of its land surface, as so damaged by industrial or other development-as to be incapable of beneficial use without treatment (about 1 out of every 300 acres). By comparison, the figure in the United States was cited by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1979 to be 1.18 per cent. Sir Hugh Rossi,

What about the poisons that are presently being generated by the host country? The air in Cairo, for example, is just about permanently polluted. And Cairo turned its last small park into a parking lot a few years ago. Infected drinking water is more common than uncommon in Egypt. Wouldn't Tolba's native

requirements — the removal of solids and about 40 per cent of the organics — would be a major step forward. In the more "civilized" countries, secondary treatment — removal of at least 85 per cent of the organics — must be enforced.

● Hazardous and toxic wastes. Abandoned or active dumping sites can be identified. Further

Wetlands must be protected.

On the positive side

- Denmark has two furnaces that incinerate about 100,000 metric tons of organic and oily

The glaring absence of most developing countries from the list of countries taking the corrective actions cited above should be noted.

The international environmental mess can be controlled and rolled back only if each country will do its share instead of just having its representatives make beautiful speeches that cover the lack of action. We've all been alerted to the problem by many tragically visible signs. Now is the time to insist that each country take strong action to protect itself and its neighbours. As far as pollution is concerned, this is one world that has no boundaries. The approach to overcoming pollution must follow the same philosophy.

J.I. Bregman is president of an environmental consulting firm, Bregman & Company, Inc. He is a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of the interior for water quality, was the first chairman of the Illinois Air Pollution Control Board, and served as a federal commissioner on the Ohio River Sanitary Commission. The article is reprinted from *The World & I* magazine.

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كتاب الأصل

NEW YORK—Stocks were mixed in edgy mid-session trading as periods of profit-taking were interspersed with bargain-hunting. The Dow was up two at 2,686.

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — A new plan to foil soccer violence by use of fan identification cards got off to a less-than-successful start Sunday, with police calling the measure unenforceable.

The Netherlands became the first nation to introduce identification cards for soccer fans, but the identification checks were dropped at both of Sunday's matches.

The ID card system was ordered by the government and put into effect by the Royal Dutch Soccer Federation to stem the rioting and vandalism that has plagued major matches here, as elsewhere in Western Europe.

But the soccer club FC Den Haag, whose fans are considered the nation's most violent, defied the government and refused to implement the computer-controlled security system at its stadium in The Hague.

In addition, fans found ways to circumvent the card system. Hundreds of FC Den Haag tickets were sold to arch-rival Ajax of Amsterdam fans at Amsterdam's central railway station Sunday morning.

Although it is generally agreed that soccer violence is a problem, identity card plans tend to bring widespread opposition in the Netherlands. The idea evokes for many the harsh five-year occupation by the Nazis, who decreed identification papers mandatory for Dutch adults.

On Sunday, high tensions caused by the identity card issue brought out heavy police security at both the Den Haag-Ajax match and the other game of the day, Feyenoord Rotterdam at Utrecht.

Five arrests were reported for disorderly conduct at the Den Haag-Ajax match, with no arrests reported at Utrecht.



Standing out from the crowd: The new Dutch system plans to track every supporter in the country.

New Dutch ID card scheme: police wonder if it's workable

The FC Utrecht management initially put the ID card system into effect in selling tickets to Feyenoord Rotterdam fans, but soon gave up and allowed hundreds of Rotterdam fans in without the passes after they tried to storm a gate.

"The threat was so serious we had to let common sense prevail," said Utrecht police spokesman Joop Servaas. "One has to wonder if this is enforceable."

Critics say the plan is unworkable, since its efficacy depends both on the local club's ability to tell a visiting fan from a home fan — and keep them apart.

During high-risk matches, such as those on Sunday, police riot squad officers meet special soccer fan trains and bus the visiting fans directly to the stadiums, where they are kept separate from home-team supporters.

However, such measures are useless in keeping track of visiting fans who travel by car or on other trains and buy tickets set aside for home-team supporters.

"We're only concerned with public order — can we handle it or can't we," said Hague police spokesman Rob Osterbaan. He said the ID card issue was really between the soccer clubs and the soccer federation.

"It seems that we can handle public order... without the card," Osterbaan said.

The soccer card has a magnetic strip carrying the fan's personal data, which allows the soccer federation to trace and cancel the cards of troublemakers with police records for soccer hooliganism.

During a Tuesday hearing in the Hague district court, ID card opponents, including the FC Den Haag, Ajax and FC Utrecht teams, claimed it would be illegal for judicial authorities to pass details of a criminal record on to the soccer federation, a private organization.

But the court dismissed that claim, arguing that governmental authorities were obligated to help the soccer federation fight violence.

Iraq ends preparations to stage Palestine tournament

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has completed preparations to host the third Palestine Youth Soccer Championship starting Aug. 31, Iraqi Olympic committee chairman Karim Al-Mullah said Sunday.

Mullah, who is also chairman of the organizing committee, told the Associated Press that 14 teams will take part in the inter-Arab tournament.

They will play 29 matches in Baghdad and the northern cities of Mosul and Kirkuk in the four-group championship, which was scheduled to end Sept. 14.

The host country and North Yemen, which are in group 2, will play the first match on Baghdad's Al-Sha'ab stadium while current holders Saudi Arabia will have a tough task against Kuwait in group 3 in their match in Kirkuk Sept. 2.

Mullah said the International Football Federation, FIFA, has agreed that Iraq host the tournament despite banning Iraq's youth teams from international tournaments for two years last month. The tournament is not organized by FIFA.

The international soccer body imposed the ban on Baghdad's under-16, under-20 and under-23 teams because the Iraqis had fielded an over-age player in a youth tournament held in Saudi Arabia in February.

Mullah said Iraq's under-23 team returns from a training camp in Hungary Monday with a new lineup after its defeats in regional and international championships.

"We're totally satisfied with our youth team, which will be the front-runner in the tournament," Mullah said.

Other competing countries are Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, South Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The event will cost more than 1.5 million Iraqi dinars (\$4 million) to stage.

6 die in Nigeria stadium

ZURICH (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) said on Monday it had received reports of overcrowding at a Nigerian soccer stadium where at least six people died in extreme heat during a match at the weekend.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said his reports appeared to show that too many people were in the stadium for Saturday's World Cup qualifying match between Nigeria and Angola in spite of a FIFA warning that capacity should be limited.

"As the stadium was under

reconstruction we explicitly asked the Nigerian Football Association to reduce the number of spectators for safety reasons and to ensure adequate crowd control measures," he told Reuters.

"According to initial reports it seems the Nigerians did not do their homework here and our instructions were not followed."

At least five spectators suffocated in the heat and high humidity in the 70,000-capacity stadium.

The sixth victim was Nigerian soccer international Sam Okwaraji who travelled from his club in

Antwerp, Belgium, specially for the game. He collapsed on the pitch during the second half and was dead on arrival at Lagos general hospital.

Tognoni said an investigation would be carried out once reports were received from the referee and the Nigerian soccer authorities.

Local newspapers suggested that 20,000 extra fans were in the stadium for the first international game to be played in the capital in almost two years. Nigeria won 1-0 to stay at the top of the Africa Zone Group C with seven points.

Bird to get \$6 million in a year

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Celtics forward Larry Bird has become the first athlete in any team sport to sign a contract worth more than \$6 million for one year, sources have told the Associated Press.

Bird negotiated the contract last fall, before undergoing foot surgery that forced him to miss virtually all of the season.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed until this weekend, when the National Basketball Association released its team salary cap and the figure was confirmed by sources requesting anonymity.

The two-year contract extension, covering the 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons, will bring Bird an average of about \$4.2 million a year.

But in order to stay under the salary cap — which limits the total amount that any team can pay its players in a single year — the Celtics will pay him about \$2 million in 1990-91. Then they will give him a salary and huge bonus worth more than \$6 million the following year.

The nine-time all-star, who has led the Celtics to three NBA titles, played only six games last season because of surgery to remove bone spurs in his feet.

He gave the team a shock when he returned to scrimmaging two weeks ago and promptly broke some small bones in his back during a collision and fall.

After determining that the bones were not weight-bearing, physicians indicated the forward would quickly be able to return to play.

E. Germany denies steroid use

BONN (AP) — A high-ranking East German sports official denied Sunday that swimmers from his country take steroid drugs.

Egon Mueller, general secretary of East Germany's competitive swimming association, spoke at the 1989 European swimming championships in Bonn.

The championships are the first major international swim competition since a series of West German news reports in June alleged drug use among East German athletes, including swimmers.

"This discussion about doping makes me sick," Mueller told reporters.

He said "there are no drugs in East German sports" and that the "toughest anti-doping programme has been developed" in com-

munist East Germany. Mueller was denying charges by Hans-Georg Aschenbach, a former world ski jumping champion for East Germany, who alleged in West German newspaper reports that East German athletes are required to take muscle-enhancing steroids.

Aschenbach, who fled to West Germany last year, also said the East Germans would not have such formidable teams in international sporting events without steroids.

East Germany took 11 swimming gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and 18 at the 1987 European championships in Strasbourg, France.

Kristin Otto, who is competing in Bonn, won six gold medals in the Seoul Olympics for East Germany.

Other East German stars in Bonn are Heike Friedrich, Kathleen Nord, Daniela Hunger, Karin Meissner, Manuela Stellmach and Uwe Dassler, all Olympic champions.

One setback for the East German team came last week when Silke Hoerner, the women's 200-meter breaststroke Olympic champion, suffered an injury in training and had to drop out.

Competition in Bonn began Sunday with first-round matches in water polo, in which world champion Yugoslavia defeated Romania 13-9. The current European titlist, the Soviet Union, edged the Netherlands 9-6, and France trounced Sweden 10-3. In later matches, it was Bulgaria over Austria 10-5 and Spain in front of West Germany 14-12.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A WORD TOO MANY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 5 2
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ A 9 8

EAST
♠ A J 8 4
♥ 9 7 6 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ J 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 7 5 3
♥ A J 3
♦ Q 3
♣ A 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ DM 2 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
When you commit a crime and get nailed for it, you can have no cause for complaint. But when you do something eminently reasonable and get punished for that, you have the right to feel that the gods have turned against you.

West's double of one spade has the endorsement of this department. With ideal distribution for such action, not to double could lead to all sorts of complications later in the auction. North's jump to two no trump over the double showed a limit raise in spades (10-12 points). It's not a bid we would have cho-

sen—theoretically, North promises a fourth trump.

West started with the king-ace of diamonds and a third round, ruffed by declarer. A low spade went to the queen and, since holding up the ace would make matters easy for declarer, East took his master trump and exited with a club. But that, too, gave the game away.

Since West could not have more than 10 working high cards for his takeout double, declarer was sure that he had to have the right shape to set. Therefore, he won the club return in dummy and ran the six of spades. When West showed out, declarer's card-trading was justified and the contract became easy to make. A trump continuation allowed declarer to pick up that suit for one loser, and dummy's ten of diamonds was there to take care of the third heart.

Had West kept silent in the auction, declarer would surely have gone wrong. He would have had no reason to expect a 4-1 trump split, so he would have lost two trump tricks for down one. Blame West if you wish, but we feel he was punished too harshly.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

By Thomas Plarson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Duty call! You may prefer to use your energy efficiently and not to waste time on non-productive endeavors. The aggression of Mars, together with constructive Saturn, gives a realistic outlook.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Someone, to whom you should listen, has sound career advice. Promotion, achievement and recognition will come.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It is hard to concentrate on your work because of interfering outside influences. Take things as they come for now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid domestic arguments over money. Get at the core of the problem. Accept your share of the blame. Use peaceful relations.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Prepare for some hard work ahead. You are overflowing with ideas that need to be sorted out to find which ones are useful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Career advancement will elevate your status. You know what moves to make, but may be holding on to worn out objectives.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A fast pace can drain you. Slow down

and improve your efficiency and productivity. Recharge your batteries and be ready.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are buried in your work, and that can produce favorable financial results. Be cautious with self-indulgences that you may regret.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Come to grips with difficult problems in order to solve them. Open up, express your feelings and receive unconditional love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are taking risks, even if you feel you have earned them, it is best to wait until they are offered. Current work cycle is favorable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Basking up your feelings at the workplace can affect homelife, too. Let those you love know what you are going through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Much of your attention is focused on financial matters. You can be successful in finding additional sources of revenue.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) You may feel a creative surge today, but the time to do it is hard to find. Rearrange your schedule and priorities.

Mansell's win leaves everything to play for

McLaren's invincibility blown open

BUDAPEST (R) — Nigel Mansell's outstanding victory in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix has thrown the world drivers' championship open once again and finally buried the myth of McLaren's invincibility over their Formula One rivals.

The Briton, who charged through the field from 12th on the grid to take the chequered flag, won in such style that even McLaren team director Ron Dennis was left gasping with admiration.

With both of his Honda-powered cars unhampered by technical problems and clearly beaten by the superior handling of Man-

sell's Ferrari, Dennis had little choice but to admit McLaren had been well beaten.

"You can't win them all," he said. "Ferrari were better than us today and in more competitive shape. They deserved to win and are to be congratulated on it."

Only Brazilian world champion Ayrton Senna's individual brilliance enabled him to claim second place behind Mansell, ahead of Belgian Thierry Boutsen who claimed a well-deserved third place for the Williams team.

Had Boutsen's Italian teammate Riccardo Patrese not been forced to retire when his engine overheated after leading for 52

laps, it might have been an even more successful day for Williams who proved in qualifying that they are now close to rediscovering their former winning ways.

An examination of Patrese's car Sunday night showed a large metal object had hit the radiator and punched a hole through the underside of the car. "I could hardly believe it after all the effort," said Patrese.

Patrese could at least take consolation from his domination of qualifying and the knowledge that he had held off Senna's challenge for the lead for two-thirds of a gripping race.

After 10 rounds of the 16-race

world championship, McLaren have won seven races, Ferrari two and Williams one — but the Hungarian thriller was the first in which McLaren were beaten with both cars still running on the track at the finish.

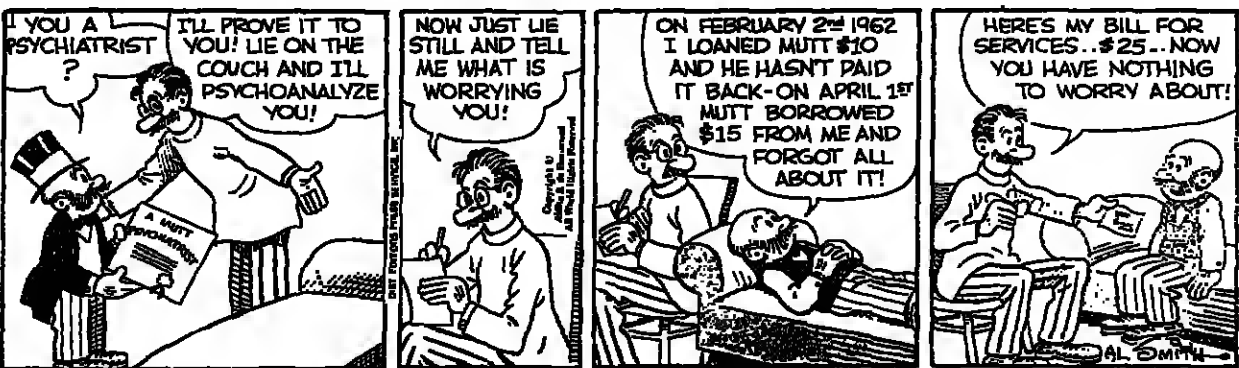
In the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix in March, Mansell won unexpectedly after Senna crashed and Prost was forced to limp home without a clutch.

In Canada, Boutsen inherited victory after Senna retired with engine trouble three laps from the end in a rain-hit race in which Prost was an early casualty.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



في الأجل

Police, protesters clash in Belfast

Violence erupts on Ulster anniversary

BELFAST (AP) — Police appealed for children to be kept indoors as sporadic violence erupted in Roman Catholic areas of west Belfast Monday, the 20th anniversary of the arrival of British troops.

Police fired plastic bullets at rioting youths who hurled gasoline bombs and hijacked and set fire to buses and trucks, but no injuries were reported, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said. Bus service to some parts of the city was suspended to prevent more hijackings.

A police spokesman said many of those involved in the disturbances were young. "Their parents have a responsibility to keep them off the streets and out of trouble," he said, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

"We would call on everyone to show common sense and restraint and not become involved in street disorder."

Chief Constable Hugh Annesley had appealed Sunday for calm across Northern Ireland during events marking the day 20 years earlier that British troops entered Londonderry to separate rebellious Catholics from charging police. Troops moved into Belfast a day later.

"I would like community leaders, church leaders, politicians of all persuasions, to encourage those in the community from one side to the other to please keep calm, to avoid being provoked and to let this very difficult time pass by," Annesley said. He also

urged parents to keep their children indoors. Protestants marched Saturday in a parade in Londonderry to mark the 300th anniversary of a defeat over the Catholic King James II. Catholics staged their own march Sunday up the Falls Road in west Belfast.

Republicans planned to gather in Londonderry Monday night to march through Waterloo Place, where British soldiers first arrived on Aug. 14, 1969, after sectarian riots had engulfed the city for two days and nights.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, the legal political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), told Sunday's marchers: "We have a lot to be proud of because we have come a long way in 20 years. Our opponents have failed to defeat us."

Adams praised the IRA as "the real freedom fighters." Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, a leader in the Catholic civil rights marches of the 1960s, told the cheering crowd:

"The British army came in 19 and 69 not because we were being attacked, but because for the first time since the beginning of this state — this misbegotten puppet state — we were fighting back."

"The reasons they are still here

20 years after is because we are still fighting back."

Looking back over 20 years, McAliskey complained that Catholics still suffer more unemployment than Protestants.

"Everything we got out of them we squeezed out of them," McAliskey said. "Yet it was nothing, because every time we gained something they clawed it back."

Security forces were on alert throughout the province because of fears of an IRA bombing campaign coinciding with the anniversary.

But rioting was sporadic and the two big weekend marches by Protestants and Roman Catholics passed off peacefully.

The IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, planted a bomb in Londonderry Saturday aimed at troops and police checking the route of a Protestant march.

It demolished a city centre bar but no one was injured.

Police thwarted four other IRA bombing attempts and a total of seven people were arrested.

In Belfast, a shrapnel bomb was found in a manhole, and in Londonderry and another was discovered in a car.

IRA supporters have been urged to picket security force bases Monday as a protest.

British police on the mainland have warned the public to be vigilant in case of IRA attacks and security has been intensified at British military bases in Europe.



The Solidarity free trade union of Poland enjoys the overwhelming support of Polish workers. The main shipyard at Gdansk and about 430 factories staged a "warning strike" Friday to support the union's

pressure on the Communist government for political and economic reforms.

Walesa continues efforts to form non-communist coalition

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa pressed ahead Monday with efforts to form a non-communist coalition government in Poland, but an expected meeting with the heads of two pro-communist parties failed to take place.

Solidarity officials said Walesa had an "important meeting" early Monday but declined to give any details before the Solidarity leader spoke out of Warsaw by car.

They said Walesa had not met Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak, who called Saturday for talks with the Solidarity chairman to try to end almost two weeks of political deadlock over forming a government.

Kiszczak wants Solidarity to enter a "grand coalition," but it has refused to join a Communist-led government.

Instead, Walesa proposed forming a coalition with the Uo-

ted Peasants' Party (UPP) and the Democratic Party, but Solidarity officials said he had not met the leaders of the two parties.

The issues have not advanced far enough to allow meetings which would have a final and decisive character," Solidarity aide Jaroslaw Kaczynski told reporters.

But he added: "a meeting has taken place in the restaurant of the Europejski hotel (in Warsaw) and it was an important meeting."

Solidarity aides said at the weekend that Walesa would meet UPP leader Roman Malinowski and Jerzy Jozwiak, head of the Democratic Party. The two small parties have been obedient to the communists for decades but want a more independent role.

Solidarity officials held exploratory talks with the two par-

ties last week but the latter avoided full endorsement of Walesa's proposal. Malinowski is believed to be less enthusiastic about the offer than many UPP members.

Solidarity says Kiszczak lacks public trust because he played an important role as interior minister in suppressing the opposition movement under martial law in 1981. The union was re-legalized in April.

Solidarity believes it has a right to a major role in government after its electoral triumph over the communists in June. It says Kiszczak's appointment proves the Communist Party wants to keep its monopoly on power.

Solidarity aide Kaczynski suggested that Walesa might be considering becoming prime minister himself, although Walesa denied this Sunday.

Kiszczak also faces labour un-

rest over food price rises of up to 500 per cent. Solidarity staged a one-hour strike in the Baltic region of Gdansk Friday and plans similar protests in three regions this week.

In a sign of concern in Moscow, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused Walesa Monday of provoking a crisis by refusing to join a Communist-led government. It said Solidarity was acting in a "non-parliamentary" way.

"All this does not facilitate the difficult mission of the new Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak or promote relaxation of political tension in Poland," Pravda said.

"In the opinion of local observers, the actions of the Solidarity leaders, which were denounced even by activists from the trade union, can lead to a long government crisis in the country," it said.



Daniel Ortega

Ortega: U.S. should pay for return of contras

MANAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega said that the U.S. Congress — which cut off military funds for the Nicaraguan contra rebels — ought to pay for their resettlement in Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan leader also said his government is willing to release more political prisoners. "Now is the time for the U.S. Congress to use this money to help the counter-revolutionaries when they come to work in Nicaragua," Ortega told a group of more than 50 Americans over the weekend.

Ortega spoke at a welcoming ceremony for participants in the Pastors for Peace Movement, who are donating more than \$1 million worth of material to help victims of last year's hurricane Joan. Their donations include vehicles, construction materials and medicine.

The Nicaraguan leader said that if the U.S. Congress earmarks funding to demobilize and repatriate the rebels "then we will all be proud because it would truly be humanitarian." The U.S. government at one time supported the contras with military funding, but later reduced it to only humanitarian aid.

Ortega also announced that the government could soon free hundreds of political prisoners this week. He said it would be "a new step toward total peace in Nicaragua."

The government continues to hold hundreds of peasants who are accused of collaborating with the contras.

On Tuesday, Ortega is scheduled to meet with Daniel Nunez, president of the National Agriculture Union, which has called for the release of the prisoners.

"We are willing to give them a positive response," Ortega said.

"We don't want either war or prisoners," he added. "We will be content when there are no more prisoners in this country."

Ortega has said that the government is holding 1,605 political prisoners and 39 former national guardsmen.

Hostage drama in Philippine prison

DAVAO CITY, Philippines (AP) — Fifteen inmates seized 15 people, including an Australian missionary, during religious services in the city jail and demanded Monday that they be allowed to escape in a bus, officials said.

The inmates seized the hostages Sunday afternoon at the metropolitan district command detention centre and set a deadline of 3 p.m. (0700 GMT) Monday for authorities to meet their demands. Later, officials said the gunmen agreed to wait another day as negotiators considered the demands.

Hostages included Jackie Hamill, an Australian lay missionary, and a nine-year-old boy, officials said. Police said Miss Hamill, 36, of Sydney, arrived in Davao City July 17 and was working with the Joyful Assemblies of God, a group that organizes religious services for inmates.

Hundreds of armed police surrounded the detention centre in the heart of the Philippine third largest city, about 960 kilometres southeast of Manila, as negotiations continued.

Justice Under-Secretary Silvestre Bello said the inmates demanded a getaway bus and promised to free the hostages after a four-hour head start.

Bello said he told the convicts that this might take some time to arrange because the military opposed it. He said the convicts

agreed to wait until 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) Tuesday.

Gil Abarrico, press secretary for the Davao City administration, said the convicts demanded a plane to fly them to the island of Sulu, but Bello denied they had made such a demand.

It was unclear how the incident began. Bello said the inmates overpowered a guard and seized his weapons. They later ransacked an armory for more weapons, he said.

But the Rev. Samuel Dacurme, who had attended Sunday's prison services, said the incident began after a prisoner, former air force soldier Muhammad Nassar Samporan, asked to take food to the wife of a soldier who lived next to the jail.

Samporan, who as a trusty could move freely around the jail, then left and returned in a few minutes with an M-16 rifle and ammunition belt, Dacurme said.

The trusty fired warning shots into the air and shouted, "No resistance, you're hostages." The other prisoners then grabbed the visitors and took them inside the cells, Dacurme said. The pastor said one of the prisoners, Felipe Pygoy, told him he could leave and that the hostages would not be harmed.

Samporan and Pygoy both are serving 7-year sentences for murder, police said.

Secrecy veil remains tight on Columbia trip

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The crew of the shuttle Columbia maintained the official silence on its voyage after returning safely to Earth from a military mission believed to include the deployment of a spy satellite.

"We had a great time," air force Colonel Mark Brown said after the Columbia glided to a pinpoint landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California early Sunday.

Neither he nor the other four astronauts had much else to say about the five-day, one-hour and 56-minute flight, the first for the country's oldest shuttle in more than 3½ years.

The crew was resting Monday but will return to the Johnson Space Center on Tuesday to begin a series of briefings about their flight, officials said.

The five astronauts and their wives returned home to Houston late Sunday afternoon. They were greeted at Ellington field by their families and about 300 cheering friends and co-workers.

"It wasn't nice, it was fantastic," pilot Richard Richards, a navy commander and one of three space rookies on the flight, told the crowd.

"Our mission went perfectly

smooth," said Brown, a mission specialist and another first-timer in space. "The vehicle was flawless."

A news blackout ordered by the Department of Defense prevailed over the entire flight, and only a few brief announcements broke the official silence. Even the landing was closed to the public.

The main goal of the mission was widely believed to be deployment of a powerful, 10-tonne spy satellite that can take highly detailed photographs of military installations, troop movements and other targets around the world. Such a satellite would help the United States verify Soviet compliance with arms treaties.

Air Force Secretary Donald Rice confirmed last week that the astronauts had deployed a satellite several hours after liftoff Tuesday from Cape Canaveral, Florida, but he would not elaborate about its purpose.

The astronauts also were believed to have conducted experiments related to a planned space-based missile defence system and performed tests aimed at determining the feasibility of monitoring military sites from space.

The flight was the first for



Space shuttle Columbia in flight

Columbia since January 1986, when the spacecraft flew on a mission that landed just 10 days before the Challenger explosion, which killed seven astronauts.

Columbia had remained in the hangar while the two newer shuttles, Discovery and Atlantis, made two trips each since man-

ned missions resumed last September. Columbia eventually was overhauled, undergoing more than 250 modifications.

The mission was the 30th shuttle flight overall. Three more shuttle flights are planned this year and nine are scheduled in 1990.

Emigre flood forces Bonn to close mission

BONN (Agencies) — A flood of East Germans seeking to emigrate has forced West Germany to shut a second diplomatic mission in less than one week.

After closing its mission in East Berlin Tuesday, Bonn announced Sunday that its embassy in Budapest, which is playing reluctant host to more than 180 would-be emigrants, would close to the public until further notice.

East Germany, meanwhile, kept up a propaganda offensive against the West over the emigration issue.

In a Sunday night television interview, two young men described how they had fled to West Germany via Hungary in July but quickly returned home after discovering that life was not as rosy as they had been led to believe by the Western media.

"Everything was so strange. We missed our families and the security generally," one of them said. "We couldn't cope with leaving all that behind so suddenly."

Juergen Suedhoff, state secretary in the West German Foreign Ministry, flew Sunday to Budapest.

He will meet Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn to try to

resolve the impasse, which has soured relations between the two German states and put Hungary's reformist government in a dilemma.

Budapest is anxious to open up to the West but also wants to avoid a row with its East German Warsaw Pact ally.

Hungary's decision in May to dismantle fortifications on its border with Austria prompted many East Germans to try to escape to the West that way.

Some of the unsuccessful ones took refuge in the embassy after being caught by Hungarian border guards. They are refusing to leave until promised exit visas.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn, anxious to prevent any more from joining the throng, said the embassy would be closed from Monday because it was filled to capacity, with the refugees sleeping in triple-decker bunks in offices.

Two of the 131 East German refugees, camped out at the mission in East Berlin, left the building Sunday. They were told they would not be prosecuted but failed to get the exit papers they were seeking.

Occupations by would-be emigrants are also under way in

Prague and Belgrade.

The West German government is trying to persuade all the East Germans to end their occupations, but it promises not to expel them against their will.

Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall turned 28 years old Sunday as an East German trying to escape his nation was grabbed by border guards and about 50 of his countrymen unsuccessfully tried to demonstrate.

East Berlin security forces dispersed the demonstrators as they tried to gather in front of the West German mission, witnesses said.

Witnesses said the demonstrators attempted to lay flowers at the mission gates in an apparent act of solidarity with their countrymen holed up inside. They were prevented from assembling, but no arrests were reported.

Meanwhile, at the checkpoint Charlie border crossing between East and West Berlin, witnesses said that at least one man tried to dash across the heavily guarded crossing just before noon.

The man was arrested by East



East German emigrants arrive at a refugee centre at Giessen, near Frankfurt, after fleeing their country via Hungary.

German border guards before reaching western territory, the witnesses said.

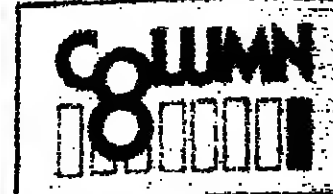
The anniversary also was apparently protested by someone who threw a firebomb against the wall at the Brandenburg Gate early Sunday, West Berlin police said. The flames burned out without causing serious damage, they added.

Another apparent act of protest was made in East Berlin when several masked assailants, believed to be from West Berlin, damaged border barriers, according to the East German state news agency, ADN.

ADN did not say how much damage was caused or suggest the act was connected with the anniversary, however, it said a

diplomatic protest would be lodged.

In West Germany, minister for inter-German affairs Dorothee Wills marked the anniversary of day the Wall's construction began by contrasting Hungary's move to dismantle the iron curtain with East Germany's effort "to build up and perfect the inhumane barriers" between East and West.



Wedding — not a happy event for mafia boss

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — After five years on the run, a convicted mafia boss has been tracked down by detectives at a wedding reception, police reported. Vincenzo Sorbo was convicted in absentia two years ago of criminal association and complicity in drug trafficking. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. But his whereabouts were unknown until police spotted him at a wedding reception in Palermo. The agents followed Sorbo home, where he was living under a false name, and arrested him.

Mayor bungles 'star' ceremony

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian Joan Rivers accepted a star in the Hollywood walk of fame while poking fun at the official conducting the ceremony, who mistakenly called her Joan Collins. "Both Joan Collins and I are thrilled about this," Rivers quipped to Hollywood's "honorary mayor" and walk of fame chairman Johnny Grant, who got his Joans mixed up. "I blew it," Grant said after the ceremony. "But she was a good sport about my boo-boo and it didn't mar the ceremony." Collins is a star of the TV show "Dynasty." About 500 people were on hand to watch the 56-year-old Rivers receive the 1,364th star in the walk of fame.

Chain frees man from nicotine

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A man who chained himself to his sofa for three weeks to stop smoking is a free man and says it feels wonderful to have kicked the habit. Thomas Warren, 42, unlocked the 7.6-metre steel cable that had been attached to a 127-kilogramme sofa in his living room and fashioned around his neck like a dog collar. He celebrated his freedom by going out to dinner with friends and running 3.2 kilometres at midnight. "During the run I felt like a bird," said Warren, a former marathon runner who developed severe respiratory problems from 20 years of smoking. "My breathing afterward felt smooth and controlled. You just can't beat that. I feel great." Warren, an artist, dog trainer and drug counselor, had his friends chain him July 9. He had tried several methods to break his pack-a-day habit, including acupuncture, smokers anonymous and meditation. "In my hometown, everyone who knew me laughed and thought I really was a ridiculous person for doing this," Warren said. "But the reward is what this did for other people around the world with smoking addictions. I feel like a millionaire."

Jackson to star in raisin commercial

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jackson is starring in a commercial for the California raisins. Jackson helped create and choreograph an ensemble of hip, animated clay raisins, including one modelled on himself, for the commercial, in which he and six backup singers perform a Jackson-esque version of the motown classic "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." The raisins appear before a screaming audience of animated fruit. The 67-second commercial will start running soon in 5,700 U.S. movie theaters. Sixty and 30-second versions are scheduled for television broadcast starting in mid-September. Bob Phinney, director of advertising for the Raisin Board, declined to say what Jackson was paid. He reportedly made \$5 million two years ago for a four-part ad campaign for Pepsi.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	15	28	73 Cloudy
ATHENS	22	34	91 Clear
BAHRAIN	31	40	104 Clear
BANGKOK	24	32	90 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	23	71 Clear
CAIRO	22	33	91 Clear
CHICAGO	18	29	82 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	17	21	70 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	16	21	78 Cloudy
GENEVA	17	23	81 Clear
HONG KONG	25	32	90 Clear
ISTANBUL	21	30	84 Clear
JAKARTA	25	34	92 Clear
LOS ANGELES	16	24	75 Cloudy
MADRID	18	26	87 Clear
MECCA	30	36	104 Clear
MONTREAL	16	24	78 Cloudy
MOSCOW	14	27	81 Clear
NEW DELHI	26	33	91 Clear
NEW YORK	21	30	82 Cloudy
PARIS	18	24	77 Clear
ROME	18	26	81 Clear
TOKYO	20	27	83 Clear
VIENNA	18	26	82 Clear

1500